

# FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

## Spring 2018

It's getting close to Kansas City time. I just got back in town from a Colorado/Utah vacation trip and so I'm a bit slow answering Jerry's call for a column for the newsletter. Incidentally, if you get out to Colorado, don't miss the Durango to Silverton RR trip. It was the highlight of our trip, but you have to get reservations early.

Since returning I've been actively working to plan our activities in Kansas City. We'll probably end up with an ad hoc meeting of some sort. I've been working to contact the IPMS meeting folks to try and obtain a table on the burse floor for FCCB to spread the word on our fabulous interest in Fractional collecting. It would also provide us a place to hang-out when folks want a break from reviewing everything on the floor. If you get to Kansas City and want to find-out the latest planned club activities, call me at 586-214-1444 for info. I promise this is my real phone number, not like the wrong one I furnished last year.

I will be giving a talk on Saturday at 11:00 am on collecting Small size FRN's and how close it really is to collecting Nationals. Jerry Fochtman is scheduled to give a talk on Friday, 2:00pm on Dr. Daniel W. Valentine, delving into Dr. Valentine's life beyond his writing of the first book on Postage and Fractional Currency. Peter Huntoon plans the speakers for the show. We'd like to have a talk on fractional currency every year, so keep this in mind for next year and work on a presentation.

Tentative plans are to have our get-together dinner on Thursday evening. It's been suggested that we again go to Jack's Stacks which isn't too far from the Conference Hotel. Last year the hotel's courtesy van took us, as well as came back and picked us up, which was really easy and no one would get lost then. None of this is final, since we generally do it by consensus of those in attendance. So if you're going to KC and want to let me know your ideas/thoughts, drop me a note.

I don't have much more to add at this time, so give me a call and I'll let you know what Benny, Dave, Jerry and I have come up with for the show. Next year I'll try to be more proactive in working our club activities ahead of time, especially if I end-up with a vacation trip that's close to this show.

Sincerely,

*Bill Brandimore*

FCCB Newsletter  
c/o Jerry Fochtman  
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# ANA National Money Show - Irving, Texas

By

*Jerry Fochtman*

The ANA held their National Money Show this year at the Irving Convention Center in Irving, Texas on March. Since it was essentially 'in the neighborhood', I was fortunate enough to attend. FCCB was fortunate to be able to get a table in the affiliated club area. Fortunately, we were located next to the SPMC table, which was again manned by Gary Dobson. So we were able to swap more stories and work together again as we had during the Houston show.

I also submitted an exhibit for the show, winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the History category. And for the first time, gave a presentation on Dr. Daniel W. Valentine from all the research I had done previously.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to speak with a number of attendees while at the show, and introduce them to fractional currency. As previously in Houston, I had a club poster on display along with an exhibit case. The poster illustrated the fronts of a type set of postage and fractional currency, and arranged in the same order, the exhibit case contained examples of the same notes with their reverse sides up. In this manner visitors would be able to see both sides of the notes.



When youth stopped by and found the material interesting I gave them a copy of the club's poster. In a couple instances I gave a youth that wanted to learn more about the topic an actual note. These were some low-grade common notes I had in mylar holders.

We also conducted a drawing for Rob Kravitz's book "A Collector's Guide to Postage and Fractional Currency." The drawing winner was Robert Bowling, from Dallas, Texas. When contacted, he was quite excited and was looking forward to reading the book and learning more about this field of numismatics. I included additional membership information when the book was shipped to him. Hopefully we'll see his completed membership form soon!

We've marked the membership applications so when they come-in we'll know where the contact was made. The last I checked, we've gained 4 new members from the Dallas ANA show. So direct, one-on-one contact works!

If you can attend a local show in your area and help us promote FCCB, let me know and I'll

supply you the materials you need, except for the examples of the notes... ☺



## Member's Trading Post

<p>Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort.</p> <p>Jerry Fochtman <a href="mailto:jerry@fochtman.us">jerry@fochtman.us</a></p>	<p>Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail <a href="mailto:riconio@yahoo.com">riconio@yahoo.com</a> or call 818/591-2326.</p> <p>Thanks – Rick Melamed.</p>	<p>Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience</p> <p>Mike Marchioni <a href="mailto:Marchion@ETSU.EDU">Marchion@ETSU.EDU</a> 423/439-5362</p>
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Framed shield with damage to the field surrounding the shield. \$ 2,000, which includes domestic shipping.

Contact John @ [muskoi108@aol.com](mailto:muskoi108@aol.com) with any questions.

Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

## FCCB Contacts

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## New Membership Promotion



Denly's of Boston, Dealers of Paper Money. We are one of the few dealers in the world whose currency offerings span the entire range of currency.

**SPECIAL \$10.00 DISCOUNT**  
**Extended to New Members of**  
**F.C.C.B.!**

As a new member of the Fractional Currency Collector's Board, Denly's would like to welcome you to the field of collecting, study and educating others on the history of Postage and Fractional Currency. As a part of our support for the hobby, Denly's would like to extend to you a special \$10.00 discount on any purchase of postage or fractional currency or currency holders from our extensive inventory. Simply include this card, properly endorsed by FCCB's membership chairman acknowledging your new membership.

Presented to: \_\_\_\_\_

FCCB Membership Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Discount coupon expires 6-months from date of issue.)

**www.Denlys.com**

In support of our new membership efforts beginning in 2018, well-known currency dealer Tom Denly is offering all new FCCB members a special \$10.00 discount towards the purchase of supplies or fractional notes. Upon receipt of a new membership application and payment, David Stitely, Membership Chair, will be sending the new member this special discount coupon.

F.C.C.B. wishes to extend to Tom Denly our gratitude for his long-time support of the field of postage and fractional currency, and his gracious offer in support of our membership drive.

Don't forget to take a look at Denly's extensive inventory, for you may find that one specific note you're wanting for your collection!

## Collecting FCCB Member's ANA Membership Numbers

As an ANA affiliated club, FCCB can receive a discount along with other benefits at the various ANA shows. However, this depends upon how many members we have that are also members of the ANA. We've expanded our membership database to record the ANA membership numbers of our FCCB members. If you're a member of ANA, please e-mail your ANA membership number to Dave Stitely, our membership chair at [membership@fccb.info](mailto:membership@fccb.info). He'll record it in our database base so we can use it to improve our benefits of working with ANA. The information will be used solely for that purpose and it will not disclose otherwise.

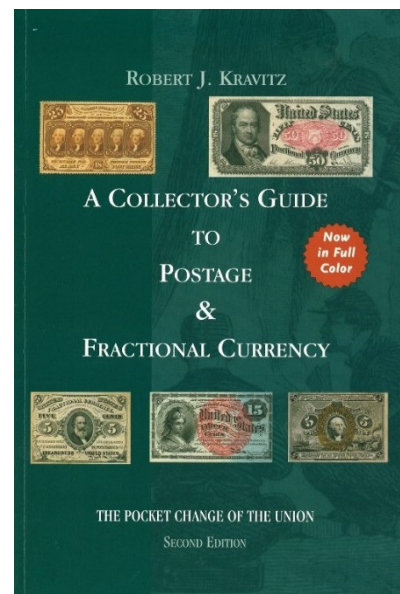
## Volunteer Help Needed...

Can you spare a few hours a week? Help is needed to update an index to the articles that have been published in the FCCB Newsletters. If you can help, please contact Jerry via [newsletter@fccb.info](mailto:newsletter@fccb.info)

## DON'T FORGET - SPECIAL PRICING for F.C.C.B. MEMBERS!

To get your copy before our limited supply is gone, send a check for \$30.00 (includes shipping!) made-out to F.C.C.B. along with your mailing address to:

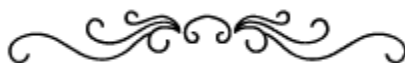
**Dave Stitely**  
**P.O. Box 136**  
**Gradyville, PA 19039**



## Don't Miss Out - Only a Few Remaining!!!

Rob Kravitz only has a few copies left from a long-lost box of new copies of his original *Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency*. This is your opportunity to add this rare 1<sup>st</sup> edition to your reference library. Cost is \$20 and includes shipping! Contact Rob, at: [robsfractional@gmail.com](mailto:robsfractional@gmail.com) or send him your check and mailing address to:

**Rob Kravitz**  
**Postage/Fractional Currency Book**  
**14305 Cedar Springs Dr.**  
**Town & Country, MO 63017-5732**



**Join Us At IPMS Kansas City, MO - June 8-9!**

# 3RD ISSUE FRACTIONAL EXPERIMENTAL NOTES

By

*Rick Melamed*

(Continued from our Winter, 2018 Edition)

## C. 3<sup>rd</sup> ISSUE JUSTICE 50¢ EXPERIMENTALS

The 3rd issue Justice Experimentals are the most visually appealing of all the Experimental notes. The attractive Justice portrait, adorned with the scale, shield and bald eagle, is one of the most compelling fractional designs. The Justice notes were the first of the 50¢ 3<sup>rd</sup> issue to be publicly released; the 50¢ Spinner came afterwards. This may be an explanation why Spinner Experimentals were never produced. Milton catalogues (17) varieties of the Justice Experimental; we are fortunate to have (10) scans to share.

### (3) JUSTICE EXPERIMENTALS WITH INTRICATE LATTICE WORK

These examples with the fine lattice work are visually intoxicating. The addition of a complex early design element must have surely been impractical for regular issue. The government was aggressive in trying to thwart the counterfeiters utilizing surcharges, special fiber paper and intricate designs. The lattice work did not survive the test phase, but we are left with three unique examples that show us what might've been. All three examples have two half-moon cancellations, the purple "SPECIMEN" overprint and a blank back. None contain any signatures.

**Milton 3E50F.1.** From Martin Gengerke's personal collection is a stunning Justice Experimental that has never appeared at any auction. While Martin had sold his complete regular issue fractionals at auction (CAA January 1995 FUN Show), he has continued to own this Justice Experimental. This example was part of Spencer Clark's (the 1st Superintendent National Currency Bureau, now known as the Bureau of Engraving and Printing...BEP) personal collection and the penultimate Justice Experimental note. It contains fine gold lattice work and an open star surrounding Justice's head. In Milton's reference, the **3E50F.1** refers to a unique example with the signatures (Note: the example shown is without Colby/Spinner signature. However the consensus is this is a cataloguing error by Milton Friedberg). There is a reference to this example in Milton's special note that supports Milt's cataloguing error: "50¢, Justice, face only, no signatures, a delicate bronze tracery on entire face of note, except white star behind Liberty, blank back (1) \$15.00. Stenciled and "same" refers to Justice seated, green note, upper part only."



**Milton 3E50F.1a.** Essentially the same design as the note above (**3E50F.1**), the only difference is this Experimental does not have the large open star behind Justice's head.





**Milton 3E50F.4.** The example shown has the fine green lattice work (similarly used in 1862-63 US Treasury bonds). The lattice work is not as pervasive as the gold varieties, but its depth and ethereal beauty are stunning nonetheless. It's printed on thin India Proofing paper and is quite delicate.




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#### **BOYD/FORD - MILTON 3E50F.1b – 1e (Fr.1351-1354) EXPERIMENTAL QUARTET**

The riches from the John Ford Collection auctioned off by Stacks last decade are legendary. A major portion of his fractional collection was once owned by F.C C. Boyd including a set of (4) Experimental notes that as a regular issue, would be comparable to the very rare Fr.1351-54 Justice series. All notes are on fiber paper with the "S-2-6-4" reverse surcharge, large "50" surcharge and printed signatures of Colby/Spinner. One could surmise that since they included nearly everything found on a regular issue fractional (including the obverse surcharges), that these Experimentals could have been the final design before being turned over for regular issue. 3 of the 4 examples are unique.





**Milton 3E50F.1e.** The 4<sup>th</sup> of 4 Boyd/Ford's Justice Experimentals. If a regular issue, it would be an FR1354, with the 'a' sheet designator. This example has (2) half-moon cancellations and the purple "SPECIMEN" overprint. Unique.



**Milton 3E50F.1b.** The 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 notes. This example does not contain the "SPECIMEN" stamp or the cancellations. On the face it appears to be a regular issue fractional; but the back gives it away...the giant "50" and "S-2-6-4" surcharges making an indelible impression. 2 examples are known to exist.



**Milton 3E50F.1c.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4. This unique note is the FR1352 Experimental example with the elusive '1 - a' sheet position designators and is the most valuable Experimental note, selling for \$12,650 in 2007. This example contains the purple "SPECIMEN" overstamp and the unusual cone shaped cancellation. Note the weak printing on top.



**Milton 3E50F.1d.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 of Boyd/Ford's Justice Experimentals. If a regular issue, it would be an FR1353, with the '1' sheet designator. This example has (2) half-moon cancellations and the "SPECIMEN" overprint. Unique.



**Milton 3E50F.1b.** This is one of only two known examples of this Milton number. The other, being the Boyd/Ford example above...note that this one has (2) half-moon cancellations while the Boyd/Ford example is not cancelled. With the inclusion of the cancellations, this example should probably have its own Milton number, but it does not. As a regular issue, the **3E50F.1b** would be an Fr.1351 with a red reverse; an Fr.1373a with a green reverse.



**Milton 3E50FR.1.** This is most likely 2 separate pieces glued together and then half-moon punched. If that is the case, then the red reverse (which was affixed inverted) is the only known Justice Experimental reverse. Note that the bronze surcharges are missing on this white paper note and the signatures are printed.







#### D. 3<sup>rd</sup> ISSUE 3¢ ESSAY

While the theme of this article is Experimentals, we'd be remiss if we did not include an early Essay proof example of the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue 3¢ fractional. It is the only 3¢ Essay listed in Milton's reference and is a one-of-a-kind pair. The regular issue FR1226/27 reverse is in green ink; this extraordinary Essay reverse is printed in black ink. Both Essays are mounted on cardboard stock. The detailed Heritage 2014 FUN auction description gives US a wonderful history:

#### ***Three Cent Third Issue Proof Pair PCGS Very Choice New 64PPQ and Choice About New PCGS 55.***

*Unique is a word that is used with some literary license today to sometimes describe items that are anything but. However, unique is the only word to describe this Third Issue Back Essay, Milton# 3E3R.1. It seems to have been printed with the same method employed to print the Bristol Board proofs, which utilized extremely high pressure as the design is the sharpest this cataloger has ever seen, even down to the minutest detail. Printed totally in black, no other example has been heard of, let alone seen. The current consigner purchased the piece from the NASCA sale of the Rocky Rockholt collection in September 1981. It was lot 2312 in a run of nine Third Issue Essays that the NASCA cataloger surmised were all cut out of "some sort of Treasury sample book as all are glued by the corners to thin, gray paper, evidently cut from larger pages. All are particularly sharp, vivid impressions on soft, fragile white paper." Of the nine examples, seven were of the same type as those in the BEP presentation books, in color and on soft India paper. The last note in this run was a Third Issue 50¢ back that was also totally in black as the offered 3¢ back. Neither of these notes had any public appearance before or since until this sale. Neither was listed in the original Encyclopedia, but the 2000 update done for the Fractional Currency Collectors Board membership lists the three-cent as 3E3R.1 with the "E" standing for Essay and not experimental. The black fifty-cent back is not listed and has not been seen publicly since that sale. No examples of black Third Issue backs, either 3¢ or 50¢ were in the Friedberg, O'Mara or Ford sales. This note is coupled with lot 2311 from that sale, the face listed as Milton# 3S3F.1b. This is indeed an important and exciting appearance onto the market of a truly unique and spectacularly beautiful note. The new owner will find this a wonderful addition to their collection, no matter how advanced.*



Sold for \$4,600.



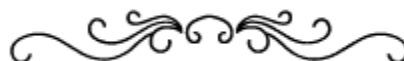
FR1226 Essay



Milton 3E3R.1

Once again, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Milton Friedberg for his monumental work, "The Encyclopedia of United States Fractional & Postage Currency 1978". This is **THE** reference guide for all things fractional. Milton went into great depth in describing the various varieties of Experimentals.

I want to give special thanks for the use of scans and information from Martin Gengerke, Milton Friedberg (gone but not forgotten and always beloved), The Heritage and Stacks/Bowers Auction archives, and the Currency Auction of America's great catalog of the January 1997 sale of the Milton Friedberg Collection. Also, a big thank you to my son David Melamed (Editor-in-Chief for "Live For Live Music"), John Roos and David



# BRONZE SURCHARGES ON 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSUE FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

By

*Rick Melamed*

One of the interesting facets of fractional currency are the bronze surcharges found on the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue. Because of rampant counterfeiting during the production phase of fractionals (1862-1877), various anti-counterfeiting measures were undertaken. The Treasury experimented with different types of paper, embedding fibers, more intricate designs, inclusion of treasury seals (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> issues), etc. On 2<sup>nd</sup> issue notes, the Treasury explored the utilization of bronze surcharges in various forms. Fortunately there is an abundance of Experimental examples that show, in intricate detail, the development that led to the issuance of 2<sup>nd</sup> issue fractionals.

The surcharge process was fairly straight forward. Glue was applied to the sheet and a bronzing powder was sprinkled onto the adhesive. In theory, it seemed like a good alternative, unfortunately many became blurred leading to confusion in cataloguing. Counterfeiters were easily able to replicate this process and the Treasury abandoned the use of surcharges after the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue (see Art Paradis' new book on counterfeit fractionals for interesting forgeries). In a perverse way, because of the counterfeiters, we were left with a rich history of different surcharges on the obverses and the reverses of fractionals.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Obverses

All regular 2<sup>nd</sup> issue notes have the exact same oval surrounding Washington's portrait.



5c/10c/25c/50c Regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Obverses with Bronze Ovals



The oval shown is below is from a 2<sup>nd</sup> issue Experimental with no other design; just a sheet of blank paper with the familiar bronze oval. It looks kind of lonely with no portrait or design.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue 5¢

The 2<sup>nd</sup> issue 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ & 50¢ reverses have the large number surcharge centered on the note. On the 5¢ fractional, 3 of the 4 catalogued varieties have small corner surcharges. Only the Fr.1232 contains no corner surcharges.



FR1232 – No Corner Surcharges

FR1235 with 'R-1-18-63' Surcharge

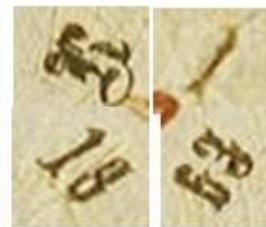
The (3) 5¢ reverses with corner surcharges are:



FR1233 Reverse '18-63'

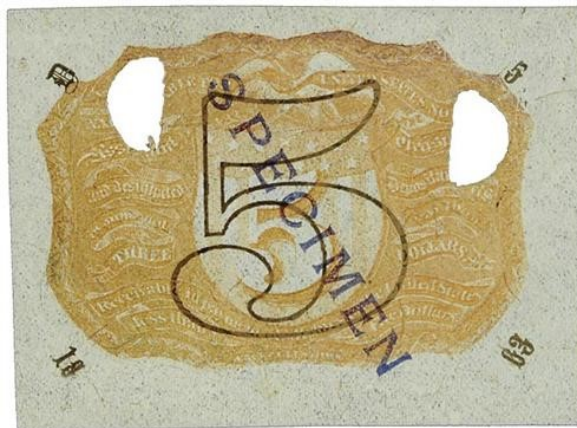


FR1234 Reverse  
'S-18-63'



FR1235 Reverse  
'R-1-18-63'

In the Essay and Experimental test notes, the Treasury experimented with different corner surcharges. One of the more intriguing examples is the negative essay variety that contain the 'D-5-18-63' surcharge. For whatever reason, this surcharge never made it to regular production but it remains a fascinating remnant.



The following is a very rare Experimental with an 'I-9-18-63' surcharge. Note that the actual surcharges are bolder and more pronounced than the regular issue. It was virtually unknown in factional circles until it reappeared in the John Ford sale last decade.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Issue 10¢**

With the 10¢ reverse there are 6 different varieties; 5 of which have corner surcharges. Shown is a common regular issue Fr.1244; however, to the right is an Experimental without the design shield. Just a large '10' with the 'T-1-18-63' corner surcharge. The stark '10' stands bold and alone against the white (fiber) background.



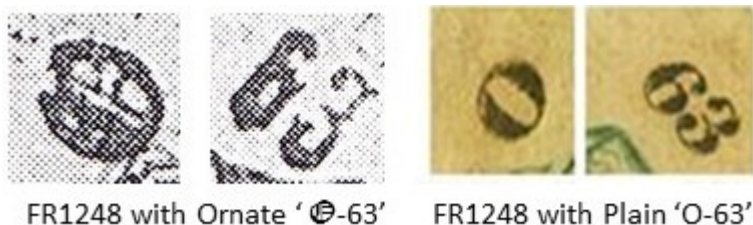
FR1244 – No Corner Surcharges



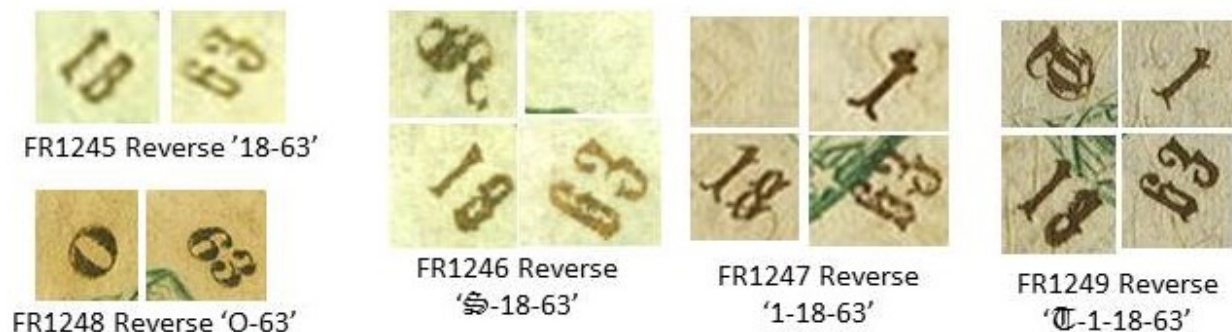
10¢ Experimental – No Reverse Design  
with 'T-1-18-63' Surcharge



There are 2 sub-varieties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue 10¢ Fr.1248 with the 'O-63' reverse corner surcharge. One has a plain 'O' and the other has an ornate 'O' engraved in an Old English font. Some believe that the Fr.1248 with the plain 'O-63' surcharge might've been done after they left the Treasury since all letters on the corner surcharges were produced with the ornate Old English font.



Shown are the progression of reverse corner surcharges. Note, they are always on a 45 degree angle. In the earlier editions of Robert Friedberg book *Paper Money of the United States*, there were other sub-varieties listed: Fr.1245a without the '63' surcharge (just an '18') and an Fr.1245b without the '18' surcharge. Those variations were later deleted as experts concluded they were the result a printing error, likely the result of an imprecise application of the glue.



The negative essay 10¢ reverse with the 'D-5-18-63' is similar to the 5¢ example shown above. It is an interesting specimen of a surcharge that never made it to the regular issue.



From collection of FCC Boyd, which was later purchased by John Ford, the 10¢ Experimental reverse with the ultra-rare 'I-9-18-63' surcharge made it to the 10¢ note. Also worth point out is the 'I' surcharge is not in the Old English style.



The following incredible uncut 10¢ Experimental sheet (10 notes in total) from Stack's XI 2005 Ford sale is a stunning example (a 2nd sheet was sold in Ford's XIX 2007 sale). Both the 'Washington D.C.' and 'Baltimore, MD' surcharges are emblazoned twice in open outline form. 'FIRST' and 'SECOND' are imprinted in a bold font as well. There are individual notes in various denominations that have portions of the city names and 'FIRST & SECOND'. But here in all its glory is an uncut sheet.



\*\*\* To Be Continued in our Next Issue